

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DOWNSWOOD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD AT 8.00 PM ON TUESDAY 2 MARCH 2010  
IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**Present:** Cllrs Cheesman (Chairman); Bevan; Ladds; Butler; Chainey; Greenhead; Roberts; Weeks; Cllr Marchant (MBC); Cllr Cooke (KCC); PCSO Stevens (part); Mrs Irving (Clerk); one member of the public.

**1 APOLOGIES:** None received.

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Greenhead Item 16 –Planning Application 22 Kings Acre.  
Cllrs Ladds/Chainey - Item 8 i) Churchyard Donation.

**3 POLICE REPORT**

**DOWNSWOOD CRIME FIGURES**

**From 2<sup>nd</sup> February to the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2010**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2010 burglary at Longham Copse  
TV, laptop, engagement ring and a cheque stolen.  
Ongoing enquires

10<sup>th</sup> February 2010 burglary Cotswold Gardens  
Various items stolen  
A male arrested on suspicion of this offence. He has been bailed pending further enquiries.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2010 burglary Longham Copse  
Entry gained to the conservatory. No property appears to have been removed.  
Ongoing enquiries.

Lead was removed from the roof of the The Institute in the neighbouring parish of Otham.  
Garages have also been opened.

PCSO Stevens issued a reminder to report any strangers or suspicious activity to the police.

The mobile police station will be used in future place instead of holding a police surgery.  
Police will also be knocking on doors to speak to members of the public.

PCSO Stevens stated that police powers are limited regarding parking.

Consideration was given as to whether double yellow lines would be viable. This could help on some corners of roads e.g.Murrain Close, Gorham Drive and Grampian Way. However, it was agreed that any parking restrictions would need to be carefully assessed to ensure there are adequate parking places for residents.

Cllr Cooke to arrange a meeting with Ben Hilden to review the parking situation in the parish.

#### **4 ADJOURNMENT FOR QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

The meeting was re-adjourned.

#### **5 APPROVE & SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 DECEMBER 2009:**

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

#### **6 MATTERS ARISING:**

- **Mallards Way.** Goal post is in situ. Levelling of ground will be undertaken at the end of the football season as it is currently too wet.

**Orchard Spot Roundabout.** Ragstone to be in place by w/e 12/03/10 with heathers planted approx two weeks later. Project expected to be complete by the end of March.

- **Planting Scheme + maintenance.** Planting scheme is now complete. The Chairman/Clerk approved the suggestion from GH Nursery to apply mulch to plants at the top of Old Church Road at a cost of £260.

Comments received re Foxden Drive & Mallards Way planting were discussed. In line with the suggestion from GH Nursery, a resolution was passed to dig out Foxden plants to an area of 2' 6" each and apply mulch at a cost of £130. It was also agreed to replace the missing *Pinus Sylvestris*/stake.

As future maintenance has been reduced by the addition of mulch to appropriate plants, it will not be necessary to undertake a maintenance contract. Consideration to be given to purchase of equipment/employment of someone to carry out watering in the event of a dry summer.

- **Additional CCTV-** Clerk to check status of existing camera. A revised quotation of £12,000 + VAT has been received from IC2. In addition to this cost, infra-red lighting may be required at approx £500. Clerk to check that the camera will be monitored in the control room before a decision is made.

- **Salt Bins.** Mallards Way – approved, Murrain Drive location under further review (outside No. 1 suggested).

- **Deringwood Drive Parking** See Police Report (Item 3) above.

- **Gardening Competition:** Dr. Hugh Vaux has kindly agreed to be the judge. Cllr Cheesman to accompany Dr Vaux during w/c 21 June.

- **Spring Clean.** Due to prior booking at the hall, will now commence at 10 am on 10 April. Contact to be made with local groups to request their help.

- **Website** – Continues to be updated on a regular basis. **Newsletter** – Cllr Butler to feature in next edition - to be prepared ASAP.

#### **7 URGENT MATTERS:**

- Burnt out motorbike on footpath close to Foxden Drive.

- Pedestrian safety barriers at Willington St/Deringwood Drive need replacing due to damage.

- Potentially dangerous trees on pedestrianised Old Spot Lane.

- Honours Board - Clerk to make further enquires regarding update.

#### **8 FINANCE**

##### **i) Donation Requests:**

**Downswood Under Fives.** Confirmation received that DUF is a charity. Donation request has already been met by Cllr Marchant's devolved budget.

**PCC OF Otham with Langley – Churchyard.** A resolution was passed to donate £150.00.

## ii) Items for payment

Balance of Current Account £6,092.22 credit, after all cheques sent.  
Balance of Investment Account £9,911.72 credit.

The council confirmed approval of the following payments:

W. Greenhead	Website Charges S144	53.00
Golden Hill Nurseries	Planting Scheme S96	1,904.00
T. Irving	Clerk's Salary & Expenses (February)	902.30
J. Noyce	Litter Picking (February)	244.20
SLCC	Membership 2010	90.00

## Cheques Received

KCC	Devolved Budget Grant	1,000.00
DCA	Litter Picking Contribution	62.50

iii) Clerk's Pension Information – Deferred as only part information received.

iv) **Other matters to report** – Annual audit to be carried out during W/C 17 May. Cost of audit to be increased by £5.00 to £155.00.

**9 DCA. AFFILIATION/SUMMER FETE.** Due to the commitment to the community already undertaken by DPC members, it was uncertain whether they would be able to meet the DCA's requirements. Therefore a resolution was passed not to be affiliated members this year. The PC would offer assistance out of goodwill, not responsibility. 'Hook a Boat' stall to be requested for the fete.

## 10 KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY:

- Link to Thurnham PC (minutes) is now available on the website.

## 11 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- A clear up of Old Church Road/Spot Lane has been undertaken place by MBC. Cllr Marchant to circulate a note with his Two Bridges newsletter requesting this area is kept free from litter.
- LDF. The Borough is close to sorting out Core Strategy.
- Cllr Marchant is again Vice Chairman of the External Scrutiny Committee.
- Preliminary meeting of Safer Maidstone Partnership to be held on 24 March (to be web cast).
- S.E Trains – Despite Cannon St line closures being based on passenger figures, these will not be released. Regardless of the Bearsted train/coal depot being empty for 20 years, there are no plans for its future. Trains to London Bridge are in operation – details appear on the website but do not appear on the timetable.
- Mental health report has been finalised.
- Cllr Marchant represented both DPC and OPC at the KALC Local Committee Meeting held on 4 February.
- Maidstone Hospital car parking to be discussed next week.
- Cllr Cook requested that he is copied in on all correspondence relating to pot holes.
- Cllr Cooke will be involved in the scrutiny of health service re. maternity services at Maidstone Hospital.
- KCC precept has been agreed at 2.1%

**13 OLD CHURCH ROAD/PEDESTRIANISED SPOT LANE.** MBC has arranged for litter picking to be carried out. The mechanical sweeper will follow at a later date. No news regarding tree survey.

**14 CLERK'S REPORT** – No additional items.

**15 REPORTS FROM SEMINARS ATTENDED** – None attended.

**16 PLANNING.**

**New Applications**

**MA/10/0149 104 Longham Copse.**

Porch and garage roof extension

No objection

**MA/10/0198 – 22 Kings Acre**

Proposal: Erection of a first floor side extension, insertion of a roof lantern above kitchen, relocation of existing garage and associated brick work.

Cllr Greenhead addressed the meeting to give a brief account of the plans. He then left the room whilst the council considered their decision.

No objection

Cllr Greenhead rejoined the meeting.

**17 COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None available.

**18 CORRESPONDENCE**

- **DCA Summer Fete** - see item 9.
- **DCA Foxden Drive Planting.** The content of the letter was discussed. Clerk to acknowledge receipt of Mr. Everett's letter and inform him that his comments were noted.
- **NSPCC** – It was agreed to include details of campaign in the next newsletter.
- **ACRK** – Invitation to join ACRK. To be considered at April's meeting.
- **CILK donation** – Circulated to members for consideration at April's meeting.

**19 ADDITIONAL MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT NEXT MEETING** – Please inform the Clerk at least one week prior to the meeting.

**There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.25 pm.**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – 6 APRIL, 2010.**